

# 1 Chronicles 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the men of Israel that were in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, then they forsook their cities, and fled: and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Saul's death and divine judgment. The Hebrew term *לַעֲלֹ* (ma'al) - to act unfaithfully is theologically significant here, pointing to Divine judgment on disobedience. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about Divine judgment on disobedience. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Contrast between failed human kingship and Christ's perfect reign.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Saul's death and divine judgment occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on Divine judgment on disobedience challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Contrast between failed human kingship and Christ's perfect reign teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּרְאוּ	כָּל	אֶת יֵשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲשֶׁר	בְּעֵמְקֵי
<b>saw</b>	H3605	<b>And when all the men</b>	<b>of Israel</b>	H834	<b>that were in the valley</b>
H7200		H376	H3478		H6010
וַיִּפְּחוּ	וְגַם	וְכִי	מָתוּ	וּבָנָיו	וַיַּעֲזֹב
<b>and fled</b>	H3588	<b>were dead</b>	<b>and that Saul</b>	<b>and his sons</b>	<b>then they forsook</b>
H5127		H4191	H7586	H1121	H5800
עָרֵיהֶם	וְגַם	וַיָּבֹאוּ	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	וַיָּשֶׁב	בָּהֶם:
<b>their cities</b>	<b>and fled</b>	<b>came</b>	<b>and the Philistines</b>	<b>and dwelt</b>	H0
H5892	H5127	H935	H6430	H3427	

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